

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING - INDIAN OCEAN

PRESIDENT CARTER'S INDIAN OCEAN DROPPED NEAR END OF HIS
MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE MADE RIPPLES IN MEDIA, DEFENCE AND
PARLIAMENTARY CIRCLES. CALLING FOR REASSESSMENT AND
INDEPENDENCE OF FOREIGN POLICY BY GOA PAPERS NOTE PM'S AND
GOVERNMENT'S UNPREPAREDNESS FOR CARTER OFFER OF INDIAN OCEAN
DEMILITARIZATION.

FROM WEST AUSTRALIAN OF STATE MOST DIRECTLY EFFECTED BY
PROPOSAL, COMES EDIT: QTE ... DEMILITARIZED INDIAN OCEAN IS
ADMIRABLE GOAL ... NO LESS DESIRABLE THAN ENDURING PEACE IN
MIDDLE EAST, RESOLUTION OF BERLIN PROBLEM AND ABOUT AS
DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN. WILL TAKE GOOD DEAL MORE THAN WELL-MEANT
DIPLOMATIC FEELERS TO PERSUADE USSR TO ABANDON ITS
SPREAD OF INFLUENCE IN AREA WHERE IT IS BUSY CHALKING
UP SUCCESSES. ENDQTE.

MELBOURNE AGE FEELS AUSTRALIA WILL NEED TO MAKE
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OUT HUMBLING REAPPRAISAL OF PROMINENT ELEMENT OF
FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICIES UNDERCUT BY SUDDEN (ALTHOUGH
PERHAPS PREDICTABLE) SWITCH IN AMERICAN THINKING ENDQTE.
INHERENT IN THAT POLICY WAS QTR SCOFFING DISMISSAL OF
CALL BY ASIAN STATES BORDERING INDIAN OCEAN TO HAVE IT
RECOGNIZED BY SUPERPOWERS AS NEUTRAL ZONE ENDQTE.
EDIT CONCLUDES QTE CARTER'S MOVE ... SHOWS ONCE AGAIN

NEED FOR REALISTIC REASSESSMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S LIMITED
CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE U.S. TO ACT IN WAY WE CONCEIVE
TO BE IN OUR INTERESTS. ENDQTE.

ALSO FROM MELBOURNE IS EDIT IN AFTERNOON HERALD
HEADLINED U.S. JOLT ON INDIAN OCEAN WHICH CONCLUDES, ON
EVIDENCE OF QTE CARTER DISCLOSURES ... INDIAN OCEAN IS
LEAST OF THEIR (U.S.) WORRIES. IF WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
IT, THAT MAY BECOME OUR BUSINESS ALONE ENDQTE.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD SAYS QTR CARTER HAS MADE HIS
FIRST GAFFE WITH AUSTRALIA ENDQTE, CITES QTE THIS CASUAL
PUBLIC STATEMENT IS FIRST AUSTRALIA HAS HEARD, NOT RPT
NOT MERELY THAT THERE IS NEW THINKING ON SUBJECT, BUT
THAT IT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED ENDQTE. PAPER FEELS CARTER
HAS FORGOTTEN CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF CONSULTING ALLIES
BEFORE ACTING ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. IN CON-
CLUSION EDIT ASKS QTE WHAT MAKES (CARTER) THINK IT
INNERQTE AN ITEM ON WHICH THERE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE
AGREEMENT? ENDINNERQTE ENDQTE.

THE AUSTRALIAN CALLS CARTER INDIAN OCEAN COMMENT QTR
STUNNING EXAMPLE OF CARTER STYLE ENDQTE AND CONTINUES
QTE AS FAR AS AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED DEMILITARIZED
ZONE IN INDIAN OCEAN IS FINE IDEA IN THEORY. IN
PRACTICE - NOT SO ATTRACTIVE ... WE WOULD BE DENIED
COMFORT OF PRESENCE OF U.S. TASK FORCE, WHICH THROUGH
WRITTEN WORD OF ANZUS AND UNWRITTEN WORD OF LONG
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, WE CAN AND DO REGARD AS
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PART OF OUR SHIELD. AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE BETTER OFF
ACTUALLY KNOWING WHERE RUSSIA IS, RATHER THAN HAVING
TO GUESS CONTINUALLY WHERE SHE MIGHT TURN UP ENDQTE.

CANBERRA TIMES COUNSELS, QTE PRIME MINISTER WOULD
BE WISE TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY OF HIS OWN, JUST IN
CASE WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW DO MAKE A DEAL ENDQTR.

PRESTIGIOUS FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMENTS QTE UNTIL NOW
DRUM BEATING ON THREAT OF SOVIET BEAR HAS ALWAYS STRUCK
SYMPATHETIC CHORD WITH WASHINGTON. AUSTRALIA WILL NOT
FIND CARTER APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY COMFORTABLE. IT
IS GOING TO FORCE US TO THINK ABOUT OUR OWN FUTURE
AND TO WORK OUT OUR OWN DESTINY. FOR THIS WE SHOULD
BE GRATEFUL ENDQTE ENDUSINFO.

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